

Claim Amendments

1. (previously amended) A system, comprising:

a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the phone comprises a first phone having a shared call appearance with a second phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network

wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones means the second phone serves as an electronic implementation of an extension phone of the first phone.

2. (previously amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector component employs an explicit selection of a particular switch component of the plurality of switch components to operationally connect the first phone through the packet network to the particular switch component, wherein a user of the first phone inputs the explicit selection.

3-4. Canceled.

5. (previously amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the first phone comprises a second shared call appearance with a third phone over a second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

6. (previously amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first phone comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

7 - 10. Canceled.

11. (previously amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the steps of:

selecting the phone to comprise a first phone; and

selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network

wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones means the second phone serves as an electronic implementation of an extension phone of the first phone.

12. (previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the steps of:

receiving from a user of the first phone an explicit selection of a particular switch component of the plurality of switch components; and

employing the explicit selection with the connector component to operationally connect the first phone through the packet network to the particular switch component.

13-14. Canceled.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

selecting the first phone to comprise a second shared call appearance with a third phone over a second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

16. (previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the first phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

17. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the phone to be registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

18 - 20. Canceled.

21. (previously amended) An article, comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

means in the medium for selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a first phone; and

means in the medium for selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network, wherein the shared call appearances of the first and second phones means the second phone serves as an electronic implementation of an extension phone of the first phone.

22. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for receiving from a user of the phone an explicit selection of a particular switch component of the plurality of switch components; and

means in the medium for employing the explicit selection with the connector component to operationally connect the phone through the packet network to the particular switch component.

23-24. Canceled.

25. (currently amended) An article, comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

means in the medium for selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the plurality of switch components comprises a first switch component and a second switch component, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable to the first switch component through the packet network and operationally connectable to the second switch component through the packet network;

wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise the connector component that is operationally connectable to the first switch component through the packet network and operationally connectable to the second switch component through the packet network comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a first phone;

means in the medium for selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over the first switch component and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the first switch component and through a network; and

means in the medium for selecting the first phone to comprise a second shared call appearance with a third phone over the second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network,

wherein the shared call appearances of the first, second and third phones means ~~each of the first, second and third phones serves as an electronic implementation of extension phones of each other~~ the first phone.

26. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

27 – 30 Canceled.